

Grant Camp I (GCI)
July 2002
Bethesda, MD

The Resource Center for Excellence in Military Nursing, TriService Nursing Research Program (TSNRP) sponsored a 5-day workshop to expand grant-writing skills of applicants. To be eligible, each participant must submit a complete research proposal prior to the GCI. Applicants were selected based upon: having a written proposal, and having military unique topic. Some participants have previously applied to TSNRP for funding. Seventeen officers participated – 2 Air Force, 8 Army, and 7 Navy.

Faculty for the GCI included: four from academia setting, and two from the military setting. The faculty worked closely with each assigned camp attendee through the whole GCI. The faculty served as teacher and mentor to each individual participant.

The workshop schedule featured a balance between lectures, homework, and small group discussion. Round Table discussions captured daily learning and provided opportunities for clarifications. The schedule allowed for each participant to meet with the assigned faculty one-on-one, each day. Within the one-on-one meetings, participants received individualized guidance on his/her own research project. The workshop was also structured so that participants have opportunities to revise their own proposal using inputs from the faculty each day.

Core workshop topics dealt with details of the proposal development process from pre-submission activities to packaging the application, alerting them to fatal flaws they can avoid in the writing of proposals.

Proposal development topics highlighted in the week-long workshop included:

- *Conceptual Framework*
- *Review of Literature, Military Significance*
- *Development of Researchable Questions and Hypotheses*
- *Research Designs & Methods*
- *Sampling*
- *Measurement*
- *Statistical Analysis*
- *Human Subject Protection and the Institutional Review Board (IRB)*

Participants were introduced to the TNSRP proposal review process covering criteria for both scientific and programmatic reviews.

Participants' feedback reflected highly positive feelings about the support and encouragement of the Faculty. The overall helpfulness of the workshop in improving participants' grant-writing skills was expressed in specific comments about ways it has prepared them to submit a grant proposal. At the completion of Grant Camp I, three out of four participants indicated high level of commitment in submitting a research proposal for funding within the following 12 months.